

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4208

To create the income security conditions and family supports needed to ensure permanency for the Nation's unaccompanied youth, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 15, 2007

Ms. BERKLEY (for herself, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. CONYERS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

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## A BILL

To create the income security conditions and family supports needed to ensure permanency for the Nation's unaccompanied youth, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### 3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; ETC.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Reconnecting Youth to Prevent Homelessness Act of  
6 2007”.

7 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—

Sec. 1. Short title; etc.

TITLE I—PREVENTION OF UNACCOMPANIED SITUATIONS AMONG  
CHILD WELFARE GROUPS

- Sec. 101. Curtailment of involuntary separation of children from their families.  
Sec. 102. Unaccompanied youth access to the child welfare system.  
Sec. 103. Discharge from child welfare system.

TITLE II—EXTENSION OF CHILD WELFARE SERVICES TO OLDER  
YOUTH

- Sec. 201. Eligibility for foster care maintenance payments and adoption assistance payments through age 20.  
Sec. 202. Improvements to John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program.

TITLE III—YOUNG FAMILY CONCERNS

- Sec. 301. TANF State plan amendment.  
Sec. 302. Adult-supervised living arrangements.  
Sec. 303. Suspension of time limit for young adult parent involved in education or training.  
Sec. 304. Transitional compliance.  
Sec. 305. Sanction protections for minor parents.  
Sec. 306. Teen parent study and report.

TITLE IV—WORK OPPORTUNITIES

- Sec. 401. Inclusion of homeless youth as qualified population for Work Opportunity Credit.

1 **TITLE I—PREVENTION OF UNAC-**  
2 **COMPANIED SITUATIONS**  
3 **AMONG CHILD WELFARE**  
4 **GROUPS**

5 **SEC. 101. CURTAILMENT OF INVOLUNTARY SEPARATION OF**  
6 **CHILDREN FROM THEIR FAMILIES.**

7 Section 471(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
8 671(a)) is amended—

- 9 (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph  
10 (26);  
11 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-  
12 graph (27) and inserting “; and”; and  
13 (3) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(28) provide that the State shall have in effect  
2 such laws and procedures as are necessary to ensure  
3 that—

4 “(A) a child may not be placed in foster  
5 care under the responsibility of the State solely  
6 because the family with which the child is living  
7 is homeless (as defined in paragraph (2) of sec-  
8 tion 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless As-  
9 sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a)) or living in  
10 substandard housing (as defined in section  
11 204(b)(11) of the National Housing Act) or a  
12 dwelling unit that is experiencing severe phys-  
13 ical problems (as defined in subparagraph (F)  
14 of such section); and

15 “(B) the State will work with the family  
16 and State housing authorities to secure perma-  
17 nent housing for any family that includes a  
18 minor child and is homeless or at risk of becom-  
19 ing homeless.”.

20 **SEC. 102. UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH ACCESS TO THE CHILD**  
21 **WELFARE SYSTEM.**

22 Within 12 months after the date of the enactment  
23 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States  
24 shall submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the  
25 House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance

1 of the Senate a report on the policies and practices of the  
 2 States regarding (1) access to child welfare services (in-  
 3 cluding services related to foster care and adoption) fi-  
 4 nanced pursuant to part B or E of title IV of the Social  
 5 Security Act, by children who have attained 13 years of  
 6 age, (2) and consideration of runaway and homeless situa-  
 7 tions as risk assessment factors for determining the appro-  
 8 priateness of placement in the child welfare system. The  
 9 report shall include an inventory of the policies and prac-  
 10 tices, an assessment of the effectiveness of the policies and  
 11 practices, and such recommendations for Federal or State  
 12 legislative or regulatory action as may be appropriate.

13 **SEC. 103. DISCHARGE FROM CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM.**

14 (a) STATE PLANS REQUIRED TO DESCRIBE STATE  
 15 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REGARDING RUNAWAY OR  
 16 MISSING FOSTER CHILDREN.—Section 471(a) of the So-  
 17 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 671(a)), as amended by sec-  
 18 tions 104(a) and 111(a)(3) of this Act, is amended—

19 (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph  
 20 (28);

21 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-  
 22 graph (29) and inserting “; and”; and

23 (3) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(30) describes the written policies and proce-  
 25 dures of the State that are designed to reduce the

1 incidence of children missing or running away from  
2 foster care, and to locate and return such children  
3 to foster placements.”.

4 (b) JUDICIAL REVIEW OF PERMANENCY PLAN FOR  
5 CHILD LEAVING FOSTER CARE.—Section 475(5)(C) of  
6 such Act (42 U.S.C. 675(5)(C)) is amended—

7 (1) by striking “and (iii)” and inserting “(iii)”;  
8 and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following: “and  
10 (iv) procedural safeguards shall be applied to assure  
11 that the final permanency hearing regarding the  
12 transition of the child from foster care to a planned,  
13 permanent living arrangement or independent living  
14 is held in a family or juvenile court or another court  
15 (including a tribal court) of competent jurisdiction;”.

16 (c) REVIEW OF STEPS TAKEN TO ENSURE APPRO-  
17 PRIATE HOUSING FOR CHILDREN LEAVING FOSTER  
18 CARE.—Section 475(5)(C)(iii) of such Act (42 U.S.C.  
19 675(5)(C)(iii)) is amended by inserting “, and reviews all  
20 documentation of the efforts to secure a permanent living  
21 arrangement for the child upon emancipation from foster  
22 care” before the semicolon.

23 (d) MODIFICATION OF CASE PLAN REQUIRE-  
24 MENTS.—Section 475(1)(D) of such Act (42 U.S.C.  
25 675(1)(D)) is amended to read as follows:

1           “(D) Where appropriate, for a child who  
2           has attained 14 years of age (and, at State op-  
3           tion, any other child), a written description of  
4           the programs and services that will facilitate  
5           the transition of the child from foster care to  
6           independent living, including a discussion of the  
7           appropriateness of the services that have been  
8           provided to the child under the plan. The plan  
9           for these youth shall also include documentation  
10          of the steps the agency is taking to ensure a  
11          permanent placement with a family or other  
12          adult connection for the youth, and a perma-  
13          nent living arrangement. In the case of a child  
14          who has attained 17 years of age or with a per-  
15          manency goal of emancipation, the plan shall  
16          include documentation of the child’s permanent  
17          living arrangement upon emancipation.”.

1 **TITLE II—EXTENSION OF CHILD**  
2 **WELFARE SERVICES TO**  
3 **OLDER YOUTH**

4 **SEC. 201. ELIGIBILITY FOR FOSTER CARE MAINTENANCE**  
5 **PAYMENTS AND ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PAY-**  
6 **MENTS THROUGH AGE 20.**

7 (a) FOSTER CARE MAINTENANCE PAYMENTS.—Sec-  
8 tion 472 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 672) is  
9 amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a)—

11 (A) by striking paragraph (1) and insert-  
12 ing the following:

13 “(1) ELIGIBILITY.—Each State with a plan ap-  
14 proved under this part shall make foster care main-  
15 tenance payments on behalf of—

16 “(A) each child who has been removed  
17 from the home of a relative specified in section  
18 406(a) (as in effect on July 16, 1996) into fos-  
19 ter care if the removal and foster care place-  
20 ment met, and the placement continues to meet,  
21 the requirements of paragraph (2) of this sub-  
22 section; and

23 “(B) each child who is an individual de-  
24 scribed in subsection (j)(2) of this section who  
25 has entered foster care under the responsibility

1 of the State if the foster care placement met  
2 and continues to meet the requirements of  
3 paragraph (3) of this subsection.”;

4 (B) in the paragraph heading of paragraph  
5 (2) by inserting “APPLICABLE TO MINORS”  
6 after “REQUIREMENTS”; and

7 (C) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(3) FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT REQUIRE-  
9 MENTS APPLICABLE TO CHILDREN WHO HAVE AT-  
10 TAINED THE AGE OF MAJORITY.—The foster care  
11 placement of a child who is an individual described  
12 in subsection (j)(2) meets the requirements of this  
13 paragraph if—

14 “(A) the foster care placement is in ac-  
15 cordance with a voluntary placement agreement  
16 entered into by the individual;

17 “(B) the individual’s placement and care  
18 meet the requirement of paragraph (2)(B) of  
19 this subsection; and

20 “(C)(i) the individual has been placed in a  
21 foster family home, child-care institution, or  
22 dwelling described in subsection (b)(3)(C); or

23 “(ii) the individual has secured a dwelling  
24 described in subsection (b)(3)(D).”;

25 (2) in subsection (b)—



1 (A) by striking “or” at the end of para-  
2 graph (1);

3 (B) by striking the period at the end of  
4 paragraph (2) and inserting “, or”; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(3) in the case of a child who is an individual  
7 described in subsection (j)(2) of this section—

8 “(A) in a home described in paragraph (1),  
9 in accordance with the payment rules set forth  
10 in paragraph (1);

11 “(B) in an institution described in para-  
12 graph (2), in accordance with the payment rules  
13 set forth in paragraph (2);

14 “(C) in a dwelling operated by an agency  
15 that provides social services to children and  
16 their families which supplements, supports, or  
17 substitutes parental care and supervision for  
18 the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the  
19 welfare of children, and that meets such stand-  
20 ards for licensure or approval as are established  
21 by the State for the provision of the services,  
22 whether the payments therefor are made to the  
23 agency or directly to the individual; or

24 “(D) in housing rented or leased by the in-  
25 dividual.”;

1           (3) in subsection (e), by inserting “minor” be-  
2       fore “child who”;

3           (4) in subsection (f)—

4               (A) in paragraph (1)—

5                   (i) by striking “a minor” and insert-  
6                   ing “a child”; and

7                   (ii) by striking “the minor” and in-  
8                   serting “the child (or, if the child has at-  
9                   tained 18 years of age, the child himself or  
10                  herself)”; and

11               (B) in paragraph (2)—

12                   (i) by striking “a minor child” and in-  
13                   serting “a child (or, if the child has at-  
14                   tained 18 years of age, the child himself or  
15                   herself)”; and

16                   (ii) by inserting “(if the child is a  
17                   minor)” after “obligations of the parents  
18                   or guardians”; and

19           (5) by adding at the end the following:

20       “(j) In this section, the term ‘child’ means—

21               “(1) a minor child; and

22               “(2) an individual who—

23                   “(A) has not attained 21 years of age; and

1           “(B) has been emancipated from foster  
2           care under the responsibility of the State by  
3           reason of attaining the age of majority.”.

4           (b) ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS.—

5           (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 473(a)(1)(A) of such  
6           Act (42 U.S.C. 673(a)(1)(A)) is amended by insert-  
7           ing “who have not attained 21 years of age” before  
8           the period.

9           (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section  
10          473(a)(4)(A) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 673(a)(4)(A))  
11          is amended by striking “the age of eighteen” and all  
12          that follows through “twenty-one” and inserting “21  
13          years of age”.

14          (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 474(a)(1)  
15          of such Act (42 U.S.C. 674(a)(1)) is amended by striking  
16          “under section 472 for children in foster family homes or  
17          child-care institutions” and inserting “in accordance with  
18          section 472”.

19   **SEC. 202. IMPROVEMENTS TO JOHN H. CHAFEE FOSTER**  
20                   **CARE INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM.**

21          (a) INCREASE IN ANNUAL AUTHORIZATION  
22          LEVEL.—Section 477(h)(1) of the Social Security Act (42  
23          U.S.C. 677(h)(1)) is amended by striking “\$140,000,000”  
24          and inserting “\$200,000,000”.

1 (b) EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICES.—

2 Section 477 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 677) is amended—

3 (1) in subsection (a)—

4 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “18” and  
5 inserting “14”; and

6 (B) in paragraph (5), by striking “between  
7 18 and 21” and inserting “who have attained  
8 18 years of age, and who have not attained 25  
9 years of age”;

10 (2) in each of subsections (b)(3)(A) and  
11 (b)(3)(B), by striking “21” and inserting “25”;

12 (3) in subsection (i)—

13 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “youths  
14 adopted from foster care after attaining age  
15 16” and inserting “youths in or exiting from  
16 foster care after attaining 14 years of age”; and

17 (B) by striking paragraph (3) and redesignig-  
18 nating paragraphs (4) through (6) as para-  
19 graphs (3) through (5), respectively.

20 (c) AUTHORITY TO USE PROGRAM FUNDS TO PRO-  
21 VIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES AND EDUCATION  
22 AND TRAINING VOUCHERS FOR CHILDREN WHO EXIT  
23 FOSTER CARE TO GUARDIANSHIP OR ADOPTION AFTER  
24 AGE 14.—

1 (1) INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES.—Section  
2 477(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 677(a)) is amended—

3 (A) by striking “and” at the end of para-  
4 graph (5);

5 (B) by striking the period at the end of  
6 paragraph (6) and inserting “; and”; and

7 (C) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(7) to provide the services referred to in this  
9 subsection to children who, after attaining 14 years  
10 of age, have left foster care for kinship guardianship  
11 or adoption.”.

12 (2) EDUCATION AND TRAINING VOUCHERS.—  
13 Section 477(i)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 677(i)(2))  
14 is amended by striking “from foster care after at-  
15 taining age 16” and inserting “or entering kinship  
16 guardianship from foster care after attaining 14  
17 years of age”.

18 (d) ELIGIBILITY OF PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDERS  
19 FOR FUNDS.—Section 477(b)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C.  
20 677(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

21 “(G) Distribute funds provided to the  
22 State under this section among a diverse range  
23 of qualified providers of services that are pri-  
24 vate entities, and ensure that the entities have  
25 equal opportunity to receive the funds.”.

1 (e) EXPANSION OF PROGRAM EVALUATIONS.—Sec-  
2 tion 477(g)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 677(g)(1)) is  
3 amended—

4 (1) in the 1st sentence, by inserting “, and of  
5 model programs that focus on improving outcomes  
6 for youth aging out of care in the areas of edu-  
7 cation, employment, personal development, and  
8 housing” after “significance”;

9 (2) in the 2nd sentence, by striking “and per-  
10 sonal development” and inserting “mental and phys-  
11 ical health, personal development, and housing, and  
12 on the use of room and board services and how the  
13 use of the services improve housing outcomes for  
14 youth.”; and

15 (3) in the 3rd sentence, by inserting “, where  
16 practicable,” before “random assignment”.

17 (f) IMPROVING AWARENESS OF AVAILABLE SERV-  
18 ICES.—

19 (1) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.—Section 477  
20 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 677) is amended by adding  
21 at the end the following:

22 “(j) DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER  
23 RELATED PROGRAMS.—To improve access to the array of  
24 services available to youth transitioning out of foster care  
25 and assist States in leveraging available resources, the

1 Secretary shall provide for the efficient distribution to  
2 States and local areas of information about Federal pro-  
3 grams, other than the program established by this section,  
4 that may assist youth in their transition to self-sufficiency  
5 and provide guidance on how to access services under the  
6 programs.”.

7 (2) DUTIES OF THE STATE.—Section 477(b)(3)  
8 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 677(b)(3)) is amended—

9 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (H)  
10 through (J) as subparagraphs (I) through (K),  
11 respectively; and

12 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (F)  
13 the following:

14 “(G) A certification by the chief executive offi-  
15 cer that, when or before a child leaves foster care  
16 under the responsibility of the State, the State will  
17 inform the child of the full range of available finan-  
18 cial, housing, counseling, health, public benefit em-  
19 ployment, and education services, and other appro-  
20 priate support and services for which the child is eli-  
21 gible.”.

## **TITLE III—YOUNG FAMILY CONCERNS**

### **SEC. 301. TANF STATE PLAN AMENDMENT.**

Section 402(a)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 602(a)(1)(A)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(vii) Identify the education and training, living arrangement, and other services needs of individuals described in section 408(a)(5)(B)(ii) who are potentially eligible to receive assistance under the State program funded under this part and establish policies, procedures, and strategies to address the needs.”.

### **SEC. 302. ADULT-SUPERVISED LIVING ARRANGEMENTS.**

Section 408(a)(5)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 608(a)(5)(B)) is amended—

(1) by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

“(i) **PROVISION OF ADULT-SUPERVISED LIVING ARRANGEMENT.**—In the case of an individual who is described in clause (ii), the State agency referred to in section 402(a)(4) shall provide or ensure the provision of a second chance home, maternity



1 group home, transitional living youth  
2 project, or other appropriate adult-super-  
3 vised supportive living arrangement, taking  
4 into consideration the needs, concerns, and  
5 wishes of the individual, unless the State  
6 agency determines that the individual's  
7 current living arrangement is appropriate,  
8 and therefore, shall require that the indi-  
9 vidual and the minor child referred to in  
10 subparagraph (A)(ii)(II) reside in such liv-  
11 ing arrangement as a condition of the con-  
12 tinued receipt of assistance under the  
13 State program funded under this part at-  
14 tributable to funds provided by the Federal  
15 Government (or in an alternative appro-  
16 priate arrangement, should circumstances  
17 change and the current arrangement cease  
18 to be appropriate).”;

19 (2) in clause (ii)—

20 (A) by redesignating subclauses (III) and  
21 (IV) as subclauses (V) and (VI), respectively;  
22 and

23 (B) by inserting after subclause (II) the  
24 following:

1 “(III) the individual is a home-  
2 less youth;

3 “(IV) the individual is a street  
4 youth;”;

5 (3) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (vi)  
6 and inserting after clause (ii) the following:

7 “(iii) DISCLOSURE OF ADULT-SUPER-  
8 VISED LIVING ARRANGEMENT OPTIONS TO  
9 INDIVIDUAL.—The State agency shall en-  
10 sure that individuals described in subpara-  
11 graph (A)(ii) who are applicants or recipi-  
12 ents of assistance are fully informed of all  
13 adult-supervised living arrangement op-  
14 tions that satisfy the requirement of this  
15 subsection, and provide the individual the  
16 opportunity to request a specific adult-su-  
17 pervised living arrangement.

18 “(iv) DETERMINATION OF ADULT-SU-  
19 PERVISED LIVING ARRANGEMENT.—In de-  
20 termining the appropriateness of the indi-  
21 vidual’s current living arrangement in  
22 clause (i) and considering the individual’s  
23 request for a specific adult-supervised liv-  
24 ing arrangement in clause (iii), the State  
25 agency shall provide a written explanation

1 of the determination, including a statement  
 2 regarding the right to appeal the deter-  
 3 mination under clause (v), to the indi-  
 4 vidual, if the determination is other than  
 5 the adult-supervised living arrangement re-  
 6 quested by the individual.

7 “(v) RIGHT TO APPEAL ADULT-SU-  
 8 PERVISED LIVING ARRANGEMENT.—If the  
 9 State agency’s determination of appro-  
 10 priate adult-supervised living arrangement  
 11 in clause (i) is other than the adult-super-  
 12 vised living arrangement requested by the  
 13 individual in clause (iii), the individual  
 14 shall have a right to appeal the State agen-  
 15 cy’s decision through appeal and dispute  
 16 resolution mechanisms available in the  
 17 State.”; and

18 (4) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(vi) DEFINITIONS.—In this subpara-  
 20 graph:

21 “(I) TRANSITIONAL LIVING  
 22 YOUTH PROJECT.—The term ‘transi-  
 23 tional living youth project’ has the  
 24 same meaning as provided in section

387(6) of the Juvenile Justice and  
Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974.

“(II) HOMELESS YOUTH.—The  
term ‘homeless youth’ has the same  
meaning as provided in section 387(3)  
of the Juvenile Justice and Delin-  
quency Prevention Act of 1974.

“(III) STREET YOUTH.—The  
term ‘street youth’ has the same  
meaning as provided in section 387(5)  
of the Juvenile Justice and Delin-  
quency Prevention Act of 1974.”.

**SEC. 303. SUSPENSION OF TIME LIMIT FOR YOUNG ADULT  
PARENT INVOLVED IN EDUCATION OR TRAIN-  
ING.**

Section 408(a)(7)(B) of the Social Security Act (42  
U.S.C. 608(a)(7)(B)) is amended—

(1) in the subparagraph heading, by striking  
“MINOR CHILD EXCEPTION” and inserting “AGE EX-  
CEPTIONS”; and

(2) by striking clauses (i) and (ii) and inserting  
the following:

“(i) a minor child, and not the head  
of a household or married to the head of  
a household; or

1 “(ii) was pregnant or a parent, and—

2 “(I) had not attained 20 years of  
3 age, and was meeting all program re-  
4 quirements relating to education,  
5 training and living arrangements; or

6 “(II) had attained 20 but not 21  
7 years of age, and was scheduled to  
8 complete all program requirements re-  
9 lating to education or training.”.

10 **SEC. 304. TRANSITIONAL COMPLIANCE.**

11 Section 408(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
12 608(a)) is amended—

13 (1) in paragraph (4), by striking “if” and all  
14 that follows and inserting “if—

15 “(A) the individual does not participate  
16 in—

17 “(i) educational activities directed to-  
18 ward the attainment of a high school di-  
19 ploma or its equivalent; or

20 “(ii) an alternative educational or  
21 training program that has been approved  
22 by the State; and

23 “(B) 91 days have elapsed since the State  
24 has notified the individual that the individual is  
25 in violation of this paragraph.”; and

1           (2) in paragraph (5), by inserting “, and 91  
2       days have elapsed since the State has notified the in-  
3       dividual that the individual is in violation of this  
4       paragraph” before the period.

5   **SEC. 305. SANCTION PROTECTIONS FOR MINOR PARENTS.**

6       Section 408(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
7   608(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

8           “(12) A State to which a grant is made under  
9       section 403 of this Act shall not impose a sanction  
10      on a recipient of assistance under the State program  
11      funded under this part who is an individual de-  
12      scribed in paragraph (4) or (5)(B)(ii) of this sub-  
13      section and whose household includes a minor who  
14      has received assistance under the State program  
15      funded under this part attributable to funds pro-  
16      vided by the Federal Government or under the food  
17      stamp program, as defined in section 3(h) of the  
18      Food Stamp Act of 1977, unless the State has es-  
19      tablished procedures that help recipients of assist-  
20      ance under the State program funded under this  
21      part understand, avoid, or end sanctions, and has  
22      applied the procedures to the recipient.”.

23   **SEC. 306. TEEN PARENT STUDY AND REPORT.**

24       Section 413 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
25   613) is amended by adding at the end the following:

1 “(k) TEEN PARENT STUDY AND REPORT.—

2 “(1) STUDY OF TANF RECIPIENTS.—The Sec-  
3 retary shall conduct a study of recipients of assist-  
4 ance under State programs funded under this part  
5 who are parents and have not attained 20 years of  
6 age to determine the following:

7 “(A) Whether State data on the number of  
8 such recipients is accurately reflected in Fed-  
9 eral data, including an examination of the ex-  
10 tent to which such recipients who are members  
11 of a family are not reflected in the data, and  
12 an examination of the extent to which Federal  
13 estimation methods do not reflect the number  
14 of such recipients in a State.

15 “(B) What assessment procedures are uti-  
16 lized with such recipients, and whether there  
17 appear to be best practices that consider such  
18 issues as whether the recipient has an edu-  
19 cational barrier such as a learning disability or  
20 mental health problem.

21 “(C) Whether localities appear to have  
22 adequate and appropriate services that meet the  
23 needs of such recipients in areas such as infant  
24 care, education, training, and mental health, for  
25 services such as appropriate housing, mental

1 health, and alternative education, whether staff  
2 assist teen parents in researching and locating  
3 such services including an appropriate living ar-  
4 rangement, and the extent to which such recipi-  
5 ents who have not completed high school or the  
6 equivalent are encouraged to engage in edu-  
7 cation or work.

8 “(D) How State rules providing that, in  
9 determining the eligibility of such recipients for  
10 such assistance, the income of the recipient is  
11 deemed to include the income of any parents  
12 with whom such recipient are living appear to  
13 have affected the extent to which such recipi-  
14 ents who are members of a family with income  
15 less than 200 percent of the poverty line (as de-  
16 fined in section 673(2) of the Omnibus Budget  
17 Reconciliation Act of 1981, including any revi-  
18 sion required by such section, applicable to a  
19 family of the size involved) are able to partici-  
20 pate in State programs funded under this part.

21 “(E) Demographic information such as—

22 “(i) the age of such recipients;

23 “(ii) the amount of time such recipi-  
24 ents received such assistance in a given  
25 year;



1                   “(iii) the number of children that  
2                   such recipients have;

3                   “(iv) school attainment by such recipi-  
4                   ents, by age;

5                   “(v) the employment status of such  
6                   recipients, such as whether a recipient has  
7                   ever worked or has worked while in school;

8                   “(vi) the child care arrangements of  
9                   such recipients; and

10                  “(vii) the living arrangements of such  
11                  recipients.

12                  “(2) STUDY OF LOW-INCOME TEEN PARENTS  
13                  WHO ARE NOT TANF RECIPIENTS.—The Secretary  
14                  shall conduct a study of a representative sample of  
15                  low-income (as determined by the Secretary) teen  
16                  parents who are not recipients of assistance under a  
17                  State program funded under this part, to determine  
18                  the following:

19                         “(A) Whether the teen parent sought to  
20                         apply for such assistance.

21                         “(B) Whether a teen parent who indicated  
22                         to a State a desire to apply for such assistance  
23                         received an application for such assistance.

24                         “(C) Whether a teen parent who applied  
25                         for such assistance was subsequently contacted

1 by the State agency responsible for operating a  
2 State program funded under this part.

3 “(3) REPORT TO THE CONGRESS.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Within 3 years after  
5 the date of the enactment of this subsection,  
6 the Secretary shall submit to the Congress a re-  
7 port that contains the findings of the studies  
8 required by this subsection and recommenda-  
9 tions regarding such issues as how to improve  
10 data reporting, State plans, State ‘best practice’  
11 information sharing, and assessments.

12 “(B) ADVISORY GROUP.—The Secretary  
13 shall establish an advisory group consisting of  
14 representatives from organizations that work  
15 with parents who have not attained 20 years of  
16 age, to provide advice to the Secretary on ques-  
17 tions relating to such parents that should be in-  
18 vestigated and to provide comments to accom-  
19 pany the recommendations in the report re-  
20 quired by subparagraph (A).”.

## **TITLE IV—WORK OPPORTUNITIES**

### **SEC. 401. INCLUSION OF HOMELESS YOUTH AS QUALIFIED POPULATION FOR WORK OPPORTUNITY CREDIT.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 51(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “or” at the end of subparagraph (H), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (I) and inserting “, or”, and adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(J) a qualified homeless youth.”.

(b) QUALIFIED HOMELESS YOUTH.—Subsection (d) of section 51 of such Code is amended by redesignating paragraphs (11) through (13) as paragraphs (12) through (14), respectively, and by inserting after paragraph (10) the following new paragraph:

“(11) QUALIFIED HOMELESS YOUTH.—The term ‘qualified homeless youth’ means any individual who is certified by the designated local agency—

“(A) as having attained age 16 but not age 25 on the hiring date; and

“(B) as being described in paragraph (2) of section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a), as in effect

1           on the date of the enactment of this paragraph,  
2           on the hiring date.”.

3       (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
4 this subsection shall apply to individuals who begin work  
5 for the employer after the date of the enactment of this  
6 Act.

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